(c) whether railways would drop the proposal in the interest of commuters from Raichur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI B AND ARU D ATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to cancel the stoppage of Rajdhani Express train at Raichur, at present.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail link

4454. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-Udhampur Rail link could not be completed so far, if so; the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the status of the projects for laying of railway line between Udhampur and Qazigund and Udhampur-Baramula; and

(c) what is the mode of funding for these projects, section-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The project has been progressed as per the availability of resources. Besides, the construction involved large number of tunnels and viaducts/bridges in difficult hilly terrain. The project is now in the advanced stage of completion and is targetted during 2003-04.

(b) The work of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula has been taken up in phases. Earthwork, bridge work and tunnelling is in various stages of progress on Udhampur-Katra section. On Qazigund-Baramula section, land acquisition, earthwork and bridge work is in progress. The work on Katra-Qazigund section has been entrusted to IRCON and KRCL and is being taken up.

(c) The funding of Jammu-Udhampur section is being done through budgetary support of the Railways. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula has been declared as 'National Project' and funds are Being provided by Ministry of Finance as an additionality to the normal budgetary support for Railways.

Modernisation of stations in Gujarat

†4455. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the conditions of railway stations becoming worse due to over crowding at number of large stations of Gujarat;

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†Original notice of the question was reveived in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make modernisation of large and small railway stations of Gujarat;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BAND- u DATTATRAYA) : (a) Passenger amenities at stations including large stations are enhanced from time to time in order to cater for increase in passenger traffic.

(b) to (d) Provision and upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process. In Gujarat, 13 stations have been selected as model stations for the purpose of modernisation and upgrading the amenities which include provision of signages, national train enquiry systems, self-printing ticket machines, modular catering stalls, "Pay & Use toilets", improvement in waiting rooms/booking offices, improved circulating area, etc., depending upon the category of station.

Missing employees of Ajitwal station

†4456. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many employees of Ajitwal Railway station, EZR Division*, Northern Railway are missing since 15th August, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after p issing of so many years and according to police report also the families of said employees are not being given their dues, pension and other facilities; and if so, name-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to pay pension and other dues at the earliest to the dependents of all such employees and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) by when the dues are likely to be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.